

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR EDITORIAL, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, HEADED "THE VIETNAM DECISION".
2. POSTPONEMENT OF THE VOTE ON VIETNAM'S UNITED NATIONS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROVIDES A WELCOME OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PROS AND CONS OF THE CASE TO BE WEIGHED AFRESH. BY PUTTING OFF A DECISION UNTIL NOVEMBER, AFTER THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, THE ISSUE IS AT LEAST TEMPORARILY PREVENTED FROM BECOMING A FACTOR ON THE AMERICAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE, A PROSPECT WHICH PUT CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE ON BOTH CANDIDATES TO OPPOSE SEATING VIETNAM.
3. MANY ARGUMENTS AFFECT THIS PARTICULAR CASE. ONE IS THE EXTREME DIFFICULTY FOR THE UNITED STATES TO WELCOME INTO THE WORLD ORGANIZATION A COUNTRY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF WHICH IT FOUGHT SO LONG, WHERE IT SUFFERED SO MUCH LOSS, AND WHICH IT STILL DOES NOT BELIEVE IS HONORING ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. THIS MAY BE CLASSIFIED BY SOME AS AN UNCLASSIFIED

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EMOTIONAL REACTION, BUT ITS EXISTENCE IS NOT IN DOUBT.

IMPINGING ON THE PROBLEM ARE THE FEELINGS OF FAMILIES OF THE 800 AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION IN VIETNAM AND NOT YET OFFICIALLY ACCOUNTED FOR. EVERYONE AGREES THAT THIS PROBLEM REQUIRES CLARIFICATION, AND MANY SUSPECT THAT HANOI COULD INDEED PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT.

4. IF THE U.S. IS NOT TO VETO THE VIETNAM REQUEST TWO MONTHS HENCE, AS IT ALREADY HAD DECIDED TO DO IF THE MATTER CAME TO A VOTE THIS WEEK, WHAT ARE THE OTHER ALTERNATIVES? TO ABSTAIN WOULD PERMIT VIETNAM ENTRY, A PROCEDURE TO WHICH A NUMBER OF AMERICANS STILL WOULD OBJECT VEHEMENTLY. BUT ABSTENTION AT LEAST WOULD REMOVE SOME OF THE STIGMA OF UNILATERALLY KEEPING VIETNAM OUT, AS FAR AS "THIRD-WORLD" NATIONS ARE CONCERNED. THIS IS A POSSIBLE POSITION, AND ONE THAT MERITS CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON.

5. BECLOUDING THE ISSUE IS THE FACT THAT AMERICAN OBJECTIONS ARE BASICALLY BILATERAL DIFFERENCES, WHICH SOME ARGUE ARE NOT VALID REASONS FOR DENYING VIETNAM A PLACE IN THE WORLD BODY. FOR, CONCEIVABLY, A SEAT AT THE UN WOULD SLOWLY IMPROVE HANOI'S AWARENESS OF ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. WASHINGTON'S CONTENTION IS THAT VIETNAM IS NOT YET LIVING UP TO UN CHARTER OBLIGATIONS.

6. IT WILL BE TOO BAD, HOWEVER, IF THE MEMBERSHIP ISSUE OVERSHADOWS -- OR EVEN PREVENTS -- THE OPENING OF BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. THAT IS THE WAY TO START IRONING OUT HANOI-WASHINGTON DIFFERENCES AND PERCHANCE TO OBTAIN A FURTHER ACCOUNTING OF THE MISSING MEN. BUT HERE AGAIN, BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS MAY HAVE BEEN JEOPARDIZED BY HANOI'S UNILATERAL PUBLICATION OF NOTES BETWEEN THE TWO CAPITALS -- AN ACTION THAT WENT DOWN BADLY IN THE AMERICAN CAMP. LIKEWISE QUESTIONABLE WAS HANOI'S RELEASE OF A DOZEN NAMES ON THE MISSING LIST, WHICH IT MAY HAVE ASSUMED WOULD HELP THE SITUATION. INSTEAD IT HAS BACKFIRED BY

LENDING CREDENCE TO U.S. BELIEF VIETNAM IS DELIBERATELY HOLDING BACK INFORMATION, DESPITE THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS.

7. THE CURRENT POSTPONEMENT OF ACTION AT THE UN PRO-
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VIDES A COOLING-OFF INTERVAL WHICH SHOULD BE UTILIZED TO THE UTMOST. THIS NEWSPAPER HAS LONG ADVOCATED UNIVERSALITY OF UN MEMBERSHIP. THUS THE U.S. AIM SHOULD BE TO WORK ON ITS BILATERAL PROBLEMS WITH VIETNAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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